



Additional Exhibit

EXHIBIT 10  
DATE 3/27/09  
SB 22

House Natural Resources Committee, Representatives:  
Milburn, Mike (Chair)  
Hendrick, Gordon (Vice Chair)  
Pomnichowski, JP (Vice Chair)  
Belcourt, Tony  
Bennett, Gerald  
Blewett, Anders  
Cohenour, Jill  
Dickenson, Sue  
Hands, Betsy  
Hoven, Brian  
McGillvray, Tom  
Menahan, Mike  
Mendenhall, Scott  
Miller, Mike  
Reinhart, Michele  
Van Dyk, Kendall  
Vincent, Chas  
Warburton, Wendy  
cc: Joe Kolman, Staff

March 27, 2009

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on SB 22. The Clark Fork Coalition works to protect and restore the Clark Fork River watershed. We are comprised of 1,500 members who live, work and play within this 22,000-square-mile basin in western Montana.

During the 2007-08 interim, the Clark Fork Coalition listened and commented in the Water Policy Interim Committee meetings and discussions. Many of the bills before this committee were a direct result of the intense research completed by the eight-member WPIC, and the complementary cooperation of the stakeholders participating in the WPIC's monthly meetings. We firmly believe that Montana requires a stand-alone water policy committee, to devote the necessary level of detail, resources, and collaboration to addressing complicated issues of groundwater and surface quantity and quality, and the policies and rules guiding the thousands of water rights that drive Montana's economy.

**The Clark Fork Coalition supports SB 22** because we believe that creating a standing Water Policy Committee during the interim is an effective and critical means of collaboratively addressing the challenges and opportunities facing Montana's valuable and limited water resources. This committee will help delineate where, how, and when we use our precious water, which will benefit the state, its citizens, and our water resources.

Sincerely,

Karen Knudsen, Executive Director

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